

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6688

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y-TEXT PARA 1

DEPT FOR S/NM, AMBASSADOR VANCE

AID FOR SER/INC, WAMPLER

CARACAS FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, CO

SUBJ: NARCOTICS: INCREASED ASSISTANCE FOR COLOMBIA

REF: BOGOTA 7465, 7503, 7617

SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION: DCM, NARCOR, AND SUGJEY TEAM HAVE MET WITH RANKING FOC OFFICIALS UP TO AND INCLUDING MINISTERIAL HIGHEST LEVELS AND HAVE REACHED WITH THESE OFFICIALS AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPAL AND ON MOST DETAILS FOLLOWING PROPOSED NEW ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. IN ADDITION WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED BY MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND JUSTICE THAT THE PROGRAM IS ACCEPTABLE TO PRESIDENT LOPEZ AND WE CONSIDER THAT IT CONSTITUTES SATISFACTORY RESPONSE TO POINTS AGREED UPON IN DISCUSSIONS WITH PRES FORD. ADDITIONAL DETAILS REMAINING TO BE WORKED-OUT CONCERN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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OPERATIONS AND COORDINATION OF

PROPOSED CENTRAL NARCOTICS AVIATION SUPPORT UNIT.

HAVING GOTTEN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPAL FROM ALL AGENCIES TO BE SERVICED BY THIS UNIT, MISSION NARCO STAFF AND AVIATION ADVISOR HALL

WILL CONCENTRATE UPON RESOLVING ANY BREAD AND BUTTER AVIATION SUPPORT ISSUES OVER NEXT FEW DAYS WITH MEMBERS NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DANGEROUS DRUGS. FOLLOWING OBSERVES CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION FORMAT.

1. PROJECT TARGET AND COURSE OF ACTION: EXPAND THE COVERAGE AND INCREASE THE OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE NARCOTICS UNITS OF THE NATIONAL POLICE AND IMPROVE COORDINATION BETWEEN THE NATIONAL POLICE AND OTHER COLOMBIAN AGENCIES WORKING IN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT. THIS PROJECT ALSO PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO JUDICIAL POLICE NARCOTICS UNITS WHICH INCLUDE THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, NATIONAL POLICE, CUSTOMS, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SECURITY. INC FUNDS WILL FINANCE COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT TO TIE TOGETHER INTELLIGENCE AND ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS OF THE SEVERAL AGENCIES AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AIRCRAFT AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INTER-AGENCY NARCOTICS AVIATION SECTION. THESE INPUTS WILL BE COMPLEMENTED BY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY AID NARCOTICS ADVISORS, AND ON-GOING U.S. CUSTOMS AND JYA TRAINING PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE OVERALL INSTITUTIONAL CAPABILITIES.

2. PROGRESS TO DATE: THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA CREATED ITS FIRST FULL-TIME PROFESSIONAL NARCOTICS FORCE WITHIN THE NATIONAL POLICE IN 1972. INITIALLY, THIS UNIT NUMBERED FIFTY AGENTS, PLUS SUPPORT STAFF. IT NOW NUMBERS 140 AGENTS, 80 IN BOGOTA AND 60 IN PROVINCIAL OFFICES. IN 1976, THE NATIONAL POLICE IS DOUBLING THE SIZE OF THEIR NARCOTICS UNIT THROUGH THE ADDITION OF 25-MAN SUB-UNITS IN THE KEY TRAFFICKING CENTERS OF BARRANQUILLA, MEDELLIN, CALI, AND PASTO. THE ACTIVITIES OF THESE MAJOR SUB-UNITS WILL BE COORDINATED FROM NATIONAL POLICE NARCOTICS HEADQUARTERS IN BOGOTA. FINISHED INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE NATIONAL POLICE NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE CENTER, ALSO LOCATED IN BOGOTA. THIS CENTER WILL RECEIVE INTELLIGENCE INPUTS FROM THE MAJOR NARCOTICS UNITS AS WELL AS FROM ANCILLARY FIVE-MAN NARCOTICS SQUADS IN SEVEN OTHER DEPARTMENTAL CAPITALS AND SEA PORTS. THE NATIONAL POLICE HAVE TAKEN A NUMBER OF INDEPENDENT ACTIONS TO IMPROVE THEIR NARCOTICS ENLIMATED OFFICIAL USE

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FORCEMENT CAPABILITIES. A ONE-WEEK NARCOTICS FAMILIARIZATION COURSE IS NOW PRESENTED IN EACH POLICE TRAINING ACADEMY; A SPECIAL UNIT OF DRUG DETECTOR DOGS IS ASSIGNED TO THE NATIONAL NARCOTICS UNIT; EACH REGIONAL POLICE OFFICE IS ASSIGNED AT LEAST TWO NARCOTICS SPECIALIST AGENTS; AND, THE POLICE HAVE APPROXIMATELY DOUBLED THEIR BUDGETARY ALLOTMENTS FOR NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT. THIS INCREASED EFFORT IS HAVING RESULTS: THE NUMBER OF NARCOTICS ARRESTS AND SEIZURES HAVE DOUBLED OVER THE PAST YEAR, WITH POLICE ALONE SEIZING NEARLY 700 KILOGRAMS OF ILLEGAL COCAINE SINCE OCT 1975.

3. THE NEW PROGRAM WE PROPOSE WILL GIVE THE NATIONAL POLICE

AND OTHER OFFICIAL AGENCIES THE COMMUNICATIONS AND MOBILITY THEY NEED TO UNDERTAKE AN EXPANDED, NATION-WIDE INTERDICTION EFFORT. IT WILL ALSO ENCOURAGE GREATER COORDINATION AND CO-OPERATION AMONG THE FOUR SEPARATE COLOMBIAN POLICE AGENCIES ASSIGNED NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT ROLES. THE MAJOR TARGET OF EXPANDED INTELLIGENCE AND ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS IN THE BOGOTA, CALI, AND MEDELLIN REGIONS ARE THE LARGE, WELL-ORGANIZED CRIMINAL NETWORKS THAT DOMINATE THE MANUFACTURE AND TRAFFICKING OF COCAINE TO THE UNITED STATES. OPERATIONS ALONG THE SOUTHERN FRONTIER BASED AT PASTO WILL BE AIMED PRIMARILY AT INTERDICTING THE FLOW OF ILLEGAL COCAINE PASTE AND BASE TO PROCESSING CENTERS IN CENTRAL COLOMBIA AND AT DEVELOPING ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE ON MAJOR TRAFFICKING RINGS. ENFORCEMENT ACTION ON THE NORTH COAST CENTERED AT THE PORTS OF BARRANQUILLA AND TURBO WILL CONCENTRATE UPON INTERDICTING COCAINE SHIPMENTS LEAVING COLOMBIA FOR THE UNITED STATES. THE OPERATIONS OF ALL NATIONAL POLICE NARCOTICS SUB-UNITS WILL BE CONTROLLED BY THE NARCOTICS HEADQUARTERS IN BOGOTA WORKING WITH THE NATIONAL POLICE NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE CENTER. IMPROVED MOBILITY WILL BE PROVIDED BY A NARCOTICS AVIATION SECTION MADE UP OF HELICOPTERS AND LIGHT FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT. THE SERVICES OF THIS SECTION WILL BE SHARED BY ALL COLOMBIAN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. A RELATIVELY MODEST INPUT OF NEW COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT WILL HELP ESTABLISH A NATIONAL NARCOTICS COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK AIMED AT SPEEDING THE DISSEMINATION OF OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND FACILITATING COMMAND COORDINATION.

4. FIFTH QUARTER PROGRAM:

A. COMMODITIES--COMMUNICATIONS: (\$244,500)

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TELETYPE AND COMMERCIAL CRYPTO EQUIPMENT TO LINK NATIONAL POLICE NARCOTICS HEADQUARTERS AND THE INTELLIGENCE CENTER IN BOGOTA WITH SUB-UNITS IN MEDELLIN, CALI, PASTO, AND BARRANQUILLA (\$70,000); SSB LINEAR AMPS FOR OPERATIONAL BACK-UP COMMUNICATIONS (\$24,000); TEST EQUIPMENT (\$35,000); UHF FOR 18 VEHICLES (\$36,000); 100 WATT REPEATER FOR MACARENA STATION (\$4,000); UHF/FM RADIOS FOR ALL AIRCRAFT TO LINK THEM WITH DAS, NATIONAL POLICE, AND CUSTOMS NARCOTICS UNITS (\$18,000); BEACON/LOCATOR RADIOS FOR FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT (\$1,500); STATE-SIDE TRAINING FOR TWO TECHNICIANS FOUR WEEKS IN UHF AND HF/SSB (\$5,000); IN-COUNTRY TRAINING FOR RADIO TECHNICIANS \$1,000; SECURE TELETYPE CIRCUIT BETWEEN DAS AND NATIONAL POLICE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER (\$26,000); UHF/FM RADIO TO CONNECT AVIATION SECTION UNITS AT AIRPORTS WITH NATIONAL POLICE, DAS, AND CUSTOMS NARCOTICS UNITS IN VARIOUS CITIES (\$24,000).

B. COMMITTEES-AIRCRAFT: (\$1,825,000) (CENTRAL NARCOTICS

AVIATION SUPPORT UNIT) ONE UTILITY HELICOPTER-BELL MODEL 212

OR EQUAL--ANZJTWO LIGHT HELICOPTERS--BELL MODEL 206-L (\$1,700,000);

REFURBISHING FOUR LIGHT FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT TO BE FURNISHED BY

GOC AGENCIES (\$125,000). PROVISION ADDITIONAL ROTARY-WING AIRCRAFT (\$1,000,000) IN FY-77 CONTINGENT UPON SUCCESSFUL UTILIZATION ABOVE HELICOPTERS.

C. OTHER COSTS: (\$1,635,000) TWO-YEAR CONTRACT FOR MAINTENANCE, POL, SPARE PARTS, AND AIRCREWS FOR NARCOTICS AIR SUPPORT UNIT INITIALLY COMPRIZING THREE HELIOPTERS AND FOUR LIGHT FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT (\$1,500,000); TWO YEARS' CONTRACT SERVICES ONE CONTRACT AVIATION ADVISOR TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPMENT OF CENTRAL NARCOTICS AVIATION SUPPORT UNIT (\$110,000); SHORT TERM TDY AND IN-COUNTRY CONTRACT SERVICES FOR COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIANS TO ASSIST WITH INSTALLATION AND PERSONNEL TRAINING FOR COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT (\$25,000).

5. WITH REGARD TOTHE CENTRAL NARCOICS AVIATION SUPPORT UNIT, THE MISSION AND THE SURVEY TEAM RECOMMEND THAT THE MISSION BE AUTHORIZED TO NEGTIW E WITH THE GOC A FORMULA WHEREBY THE GOC WLL GRADUALLY ASSUME ALL COSTS OF NARCOTICS AVIATION OPERATIONS WITHIN FOUR YEARS AFTER THESE OPERATIONS BEGIN.

6. ABOVE COMMODITIES AND AMOUNTS ARE ADDITIONAL TO \$103,000
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PROGRAMMED IN THE INTERIM QUARTER FOR NATIONAL POLICE IN EXISTING FY-76 PROJECT AGREEMENT. DETAILS BEING PROVIDED NBSEPARATELY.
SANCHEZ

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